

Box

The 2017 CLEL Bell Award Book for PLAY

by Min Flyte
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A box can contain a fun new toy, but even more fun is what you can do with the box after you open it! With lift-the-flaps and fold-out pages, this book is just as much fun to play with as it is to read. The dramatic play and imagination that an ordinary box inspires develops language, vocabulary, and narrative skills as children act out their own stories.

Activity Ideas for *Box*:

- You can use small boxes for guessing games. In one box, place things that have different textures, such as dried pasta, buttons, cotton balls, or sandpaper. In another box, place natural objects, such as pine cones, pebbles, or leaves. Ask the children to reach in without looking, and guess what is in each box. What words can they use to describe how the items feel? Babies can play, too: show the baby a familiar toy, then put the toy in a box. Ask, "Where is your toy?" Show baby the box with a little bit of the toy showing, then bring the toy out and say, "Peekaboo!" Talking about objects that children can see and touch helps them connect meanings to new words.
- The children in this book have a lot of boxes to play with. Walk around your house, grocery store, classroom, or library, and see how many boxes you can find. Talk about what is inside the boxes you see, the color, size, and material of the boxes. Point out any letters you see printed on the boxes you find, or look for the letters on the boxes in the book. Looking at printed letters and words in the environment around them helps children begin to notice that writing has meaning.
- Sam turns his enormous blanket into a blanket monster, but a big blanket is also perfect for building a fort. Using blankets, pillows, chairs, and your imagination, build a cozy tent or cave, and climb inside to read. You may need a flashlight! This type of activity makes reading memorable. Children learn best when they feel safe and loved, so snuggle up together with your child to read.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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